

**REMARKS**

Claims 10-19 are pending in the application. Claims 18 and 19 are withdrawn. Claims 10 and 20 are independent. By this Amendment, claims 10, 11, and 20 are amended.

Solely to advance prosecution of exemplary embodiments of the invention, independent claims 10 and 20, previously rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Leimkuehler in view of Fisher, have been amended to further define a strip adapted to be placed only on a top edge of the curved front wall of the compartment. Applicants respectfully submit that the trim piece 18 disclosed by the Leimkuehler covers the entire top face 22 along with finished top edge 24 of the refrigerator bucket 16. Further, as recited, the strip disclosed by the Applicants include a plastic core and a metal jacket adapted to cover the plastic core. However, the trim piece 18 disclosed by Leimkuehler is merely composed of either a clear plastic or an opaque plastic.

In amended claim 11, the strip includes a groove conforming to a bead configured on the top edge of the curved front wall. In the present invention, the groove of the strip is adapted to snap-fit onto the bead for enabling the mounting of the strip on the top edge of the curved front wall. Specifically, the bead includes a cross-section in the shape of three quarters of a circle, and the groove has a cross-section roughly in the shape of a circle segment narrower in its inlet region than at its widest point, thereby allowing the snap-fit engagement between the strip and the curved front wall of the compartment. Also, the elastic nature of the plastic core and the rigid nature of the metal jacket of the strip facilitate the snap-fit engagement between the strip and the compartment. However, the trim piece 18 disclosed by Leimkuehler contains at least one energy director 32 for

use in ultrasonic welding, thereby enabling the mounting the trim piece 18 onto the finished top edge 24 of the container 20. Additionally, the intended use of the trim piece 18 disclosed by Leimkuehler is to merely enhance the aesthetics of the refrigerator bucket 16, however the intended use of the strip disclosed by Applicants is to reinforce the free edge of the compartment in addition to the enhancement of the aesthetics of the compartment. Therefore, the strip disclosed by the Applicants is substantially different from the trim piece 18 disclosed by Leimkuehler in terms of the structural configuration and the functional aspect.

### **CONCLUSION**

In view of the above, entry of the present Amendment and allowance of Claims 10-20 are respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned. If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made.

Respectfully submitted,

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